



# NEWS RELEASE

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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROVIDES \$603,000 TO CITY OF RICH HILL

The City of Rich Hill, Missouri, received a \$603,000 Mock Check from USDA Rural Development on Friday, April 21, 2006, during a ceremony at the City Park. The funds will be used to rehabilitate the city's water production, distribution and storage facilities. The funding announcement was part of many Earth Day events held across Missouri. Earth Day is being celebrated across the Nation to acknowledge and unite the communities, organizations, and the U.S. Government for their accomplishments in providing safe and sanitary living conditions to rural residents.

The project will replace two water pumps and add basin covers at the water plant. Project funds will also be used to construct a 100,000 gallon clearwell and 100,000 gallon elevated storage facility. The project will further the City's goals of providing safe and dependable water to the 758 residential users.



"Clean water is critical to the health of the environment and economy," said U. S. Senator Kit Bond. "Today's funds will go a long way in meeting this community's water needs. I will continue to work with the USDA Rural Development and local leaders in our efforts to improve the quality of life for families in Rich Hill."

"Improving water quality in rural Missouri is a top priority," said U.S. Senator Jim Talent, a member of the Senate Agriculture committee. "This funding will make certain residents in Rich Hill have access to a high quality water infrastructure system. This is an example of how the federal government is partnering with the local community to meet the needs of area residents."

U. S. Congressman Ike Skelton said, "Healthy communities depend upon safe and reliable water supplies, but building and maintaining up-to-date water systems requires ongoing investment. I want to thank USDA Rural Development for approving this loan, which will help the City of Rich Hill protect public health and enhance the quality of life for local residents."

“Access to a safe and dependable water facility is a fundamental necessity to each of us,” said Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development. “Rural Development is committed to working with cities like Rich Hill to provide essential services to rural Missouri. I want to commend the City of Rich Hill for making this project a reality. The project mirrors USDA Rural Developments mission and President Bush’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities.”

Tony O’Malley, Larkin Group, Consulting Engineers of Kansas City designed the water project and will be providing construction oversight as the Project Engineer. It is anticipated that the project will seek construction bids within the next three months.

Branum added, “Special thanks are extended to our federal elected officials including U.S. Senators “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent plus U.S. Representative Ike Skelton for making available federal monies for funding this kind of project providing essential services to the residents of Rich Hill.”

Anyone seeking more information about the water and wastewater programs or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Clinton Area Office at 1306 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Clinton, MO 64735 or by calling (660) 885-5567- ext 5.

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

**“USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.”**

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